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ABSTRACT

The approach known as the Storyline Method was developed by a group of educators at Jordanhill College of Education in Glasgow (Scotland). The development of the Storyline Method took place over years, and the approach, with its simple framework of Storyline, key questions, and activities, has stood the test of time. Storyline uses the power of story to create a meaningful real-life context through which students learn concepts and skills. Students and teachers work collaboratively to create a setting and characters, and the plot evolves as they address real problems and issues that arise. This book follows the development of Storyline in a U.S. teacher's mixed third- and fourth-grade classroom over 4 years. A history of the method is presented, and five examples of Storylines created are described. All the activities involve more than one subject and advance student knowledge and skill in more than one area. The following chapters are included: (1) "My Own Beginnings"; (2) "The Philosophy"; (3) "The Structure"; (4) "The Hotel"; (5) "Space Adventure: Operation DSCV"; (6) "The Radio Station"; (7) "The Huk-Toocht Fish Farm"; (8) "Underground to Canada"; and (9) "Final Considerations." It is stressed that by its very nature, Storyline creates natural opportunities for children to demonstrate competence in all areas of the curriculum. The key for the teacher is to decide which pieces of work he or she will use as formal assessment tools. (Contains 14 figures.) (SLD)

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